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Kipsigis language

Kipsigis (or Kipsikii, Kipsikiis) is part of the Kenyan Kalenjin dialect cluster,[1] It is spoken mainly in the Kericho district of the Rift Valley Province in Kenya. The Kipsigis people are the most numerous tribe of the Kalenjin in Kenya, accounting for 60% of all Kalenjin speakers. Kipsigis is closely related to Nandi, Keiyo (Keyo, Elgeyo), South Tugen (Tuken), and Cherangany.

The Kipsigis territory is bordered to the south and southeast by the Maasai. To the west, Gusii (a Bantu language) is spoken. To the north-east, other Kalenjin people are found, mainly the Nandi. East from the Kipsigis, in the Mau forests, live some Okiek speaking tribes.

The Kipsigis language has two lengths of vowel sounds. When spoken, a single vowel has a short sound of that vowel whereas the duplication of a vowel indicates an elongated sound of that vowel. Most common nouns in the Kipsigis language end with a consonant when a common noun ends with a vowel, it will either be an *'a'* or an *'o'.* Proper nouns like name of places and people can end in any vowel.

Kipsigis	
Native to	Kenya
Ethnicity	Kipsigis
Native speakers	1.9 million (2009 census)[1]
Language family	Nilo-Saharan? - Eastern Sudanic - Nilotic - Southern Nilotic - Kalenjin - Nandi–Markweta **Kipsigis**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	sgc
Glottolog	kips1239 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kips1239)[2]

Contents

Double vowels

Usually, the pronunciation of a double vowel does not mean a repetition of that vowel sound but rather an elongation of that particular vowel sound. An exception to that generalization shows up with the double *'ee'.*

Normally, the elongated vowel sounds follow the Latin vowel sounds. A few examples are given in the table below

Vowel	As Kipsigis	As in English
aa	Kaap	mama, mark, margin, sharp
ii	Asiis	piece, peace, freeze, sneeze
oo	igoondiit roopta	gone robe
uu	piyuut	root, boot

The sound of the double *'ee'* may vary in pronunciation. For example:

As in Kipsigis	As in English
akweet (flock)	**wet**
beek (Water)	**bake**
meet (Death)	for this word, there are two sounds, as in **lay-ette**

Pronunciation of ng' and ng

ng' has the sound of *ng* at the end of the English word <u>Sing</u>.

ng, without the apostrophe, is pronounced as two separate syllables: **n** and **g** - as in the English word <u>anger</u>.

Aap

The Kipsigis word '-aap' is an integral part of the Kipsigis language with an equivocated status and usage as the English conjunction 'of'. '-aap', usually used as a cervix of a word with an hyphen implicates the subject matter with a possessive relation.

See also

Notes

1. **^** See Kalenjin languages and Nandi–Markweta languages for a clarification of the Nandi/Kalenjin nomenclature.

References

1. Kipsigis (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/sgc/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kipsigis" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kips1239). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

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